

5 September 2022

Section (9)
Section (9) (2) (a)

Our ref: OIA 98195

Tēnā koe Secti

Official Information Act 1982 request: Pathologist PF4 antibody testing

Thank you for your email of 31 July 2022, to the Ministry of Health (MoH), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on New Zealand pathologists performing anti PF4 antibody tests. On 8 August 2022, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), under the provisions of section 14 of the Act, as the information requested is more closely connected with the Ministry's functions. Your request and my response is provided below:

I am writing to establish if pathologists in NZ perform the 'anti PF4 antibody test' in all deceased persons, post Covid vaccination, as it has been said that this may cause the rare development of immune thrombocytopenia, mediated by platelet-activating antibodies against PF4, which clinically mimics heparin-induced autoimmune thrombocytopenia.

The Ministry of Justice holds contracts with public and private entities for the provision of post-mortem services. Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand (previously Northland, Auckland, and Canterbury District Health Boards) and Communio Limited employ pathologists to provide post-mortem services when directed by the Coroner. Pathologists conduct testing at their discretion to help determine a cause of death, and the tests and their results are not shared with the Ministry.

For this reason, the Ministry does not hold information on whether anti PF4 antibody tests are routinely performed during post-mortems. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry or any other agency subject to the Act.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Bradley Wilkinson
Manager, Community Services